

REMARKS

Informalities

In the Office Action mailed on April 19, 2006, the Examiner objected to certain claims due to informalities in their language. This specifically refers to claims 7, 11, and 16. These claims have been cancelled herein.

Written Description Rejection

Many of the claims, including independent claim 16, have been rejected as failing to comply with the written description requirement. These claims have been cancelled herein.

Prior Art Rejections

In the above-identified Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 2, 6-7, 10-12, and 16-18 in view of certain prior art. These claims have all been cancelled, leaving only claims 3-5 and 8-9, which were previously allowed.

Applicants had filed an earlier amendment "after final" rejection (on June 19, 2006); however, the Examiner did not enter this amendment, and mailed an Advisory Action on June 27, 2006. The present amendment should resolve all outstanding issues before the Examiner, since all claims have been cancelled except those that have been previously allowed.

Conclusion

All non-allowed claims have been cancelled herein. Therefore, this application should be in condition for allowance.

There should be no fees associated with this amendment. However, the Director of Patents and Trademarks is hereby authorized to charge any underpayment of fees incurred due to this amendment to Deposit Account No. 50-2116.

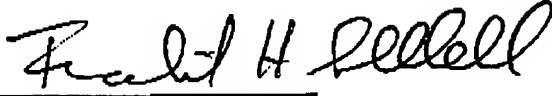
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Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to pass the pending claims to the Notice of Allowance stage.

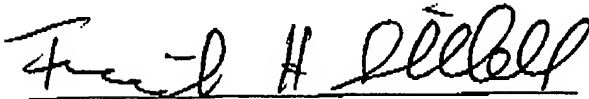
Respectfully submitted,
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CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION BY FACSIMILE

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office at FAX No. (571) 273-8300, on this 17th day of July, 2006.



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